

NEW ENGLAND NOTE

TWO RARE TAXA REDISCOVERED AT MT. TOM,
HOLYOKE, HAMPDEN CO., MASSACHUSETTS

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ABSTRACT

In 1989, *Oxalis violacea* and *Verbena simplex* were rediscovered at Mt. Tom, Holyoke, Hampden Co., Massachusetts, where they were last recorded in 1880. *Oxalis violacea* is listed as Threatened and *Verbena simplex* as Endangered by the state of Massachusetts.

Key Words: Flora, endangered, threatened, Massachusetts

In 1989, *Oxalis violacea* L. and *Verbena simplex* Lehm. were rediscovered at Mt. Tom, Holyoke, Hampden Co., Massachusetts, and specimens have been deposited at SCHN. *Oxalis violacea* and *Verbena simplex* were last recorded at Mt. Tom by S. Stebbins whose specimens, dated 1880 and July 21, 1880 respectively, are in the Springfield Science Museum Herbarium.

Oxalis violacea was rediscovered May 29, 1989, on a steep and very rocky site on the eastern slope of the basaltic upper region of Mt. Tom. Toward the south end of Mt. Tom are dry oak-hickory woods with an understory dominated by *Gaylussacia baccata* (Wang.) K. Koch, *Vaccinium angustifolium* Ait., *V. pallidum* Ait., and *V. stamineum* L. In this area, some intermittent wetness is apparent by the contours of the land. The presence of *Geranium maculatum* L., *Staphylea trifolia* L., and *Acer saccharum* Marsh., which are not generally distributed on basalt toward the south end of Mt. Tom, is here restricted to these moist sites. Other associates were *Dryopteris marginalis* (L.) Gray, *Hystrix patula* Moench, *Carex flaccosperma* Dewey var. *glaucodea* (Tuckerman) Kukenth. (itself listed as Endangered in Massachusetts), *Hypoxis hirsuta* (L.) Coville, *Polygonatum pubescens* (Willd.) Pursh, *Ostrya virginiana* (P. Mill.) K. Koch, *Thalictrum revolutum* DC., *T. thalictroides* (L.) Eames & Boivin, *Vaccinium stamineum* L., *Lysimachia quadrifolia* L., *Fraxinus americana* L., *Asclepias quadrifolia* Jacq., *Pycnanthemum muticum* (Michx.) Pers., and *Conopholis americana* (L.) Wallr.

One fallen flower of *Oxalis* was the sole evidence of flowering. Approximately seventy-five plants are present in an area of about

100 m² in the configuration of water runoff. At present, two other sites are known for this species in Massachusetts, where it is classified as Threatened by the state. One site is on the Mt. Holyoke Range, Hampshire Co., just across the Connecticut River, and one site is in Concord, Middlesex Co. (Sorrie, 1987).

Verbena simplex was rediscovered September 9, 1989, on a steep open slope on the southeast flank of the mountain. There is much exposed basalt, and plants of *V. simplex* grow in crevices and on small ledges. Many basalt balds occur on Mt. Tom, but this site is unusual in that it supports *Andropogon gerardii* Vitman, a grass which also grows at the summit of Mt. Tom. This grass needs more water than does *Schizachyrium scoparium* (Michx.) Nash (Weaver, 1954) which is very widespread at Mt. Tom and which is also present at this site. Other associates include *Woodsia ilvensis* (L.) R. Br., *Juniperus virginiana* L., *Danthonia spicata* (L.) Beauv., *Polygonum scandens* L., *Corydalis sempervirens* (L.) Pers., *Spiraea latifolia* (Ait.) Borkh., *Lespedeza virginica* (L.) Britt., *Rhus typhina* L., *Viola fimbriatula* Sm., *Fraxinus americana* L., *Hedeoma pulegioides* (L.) Pers., *Pycnanthemum muticum* (Michx.) Pers., *Trichostema dichotomum* L., *Agalinis tenuifolia* (Vahl) Raf., *Aureolaria pedicularia* (L.) Raf., *Aster solidagineus* Michx., *Solidago bicolor* L., and *S. nemoralis* Ait.

Verbena simplex was still flowering when discovered. Several plants are present in an area of only about 3 m². At present, one other site is known for this Endangered species in Massachusetts: on the wall of an abandoned marble quarry in Sheffield, Berkshire Co. (Sorrie, 1987).

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